

# FALL NEWSLETTER



December 8, 2023

## Announcements



**Iván C. Balán, Ph.D.** has been named Chair of the Behavioral Science Subcommittee at the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG). The ACTG is a global clinical trials network that conducts research to improve the management of HIV

and its comorbidities; develop a cure for HIV; and innovate treatments for tuberculosis, hepatitis B, and emerging infectious diseases. The ACTG is the world's largest and longest running clinical trials network focused on HIV and other infectious diseases and the people living with them. Founded in 1987, it comprises thousands of dedicated researchers, staff, and community members who are pursuing research into novel treatments and cures for infectious diseases at hundreds of locations across four continents, with the goal of advancing science that meaningfully impacts the lives of the people we serve.



A delegation from Florida State University, Wayne State University and University of Massachusetts Chan School of Medicine

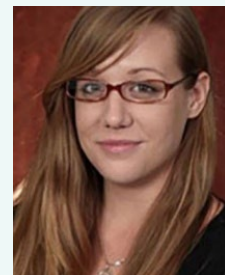
(UMSCSM) visited the Bahamas in November to expand the scientific work of the late [Dr. Bonita Stanton](#). **Drs. Sylvie Naar, Karen MacDonell** (FSU College of Medicine and CTBScience) and **Dr. Henna Budhwani** (FSU College of Nursing) met with government officials, community-based organization representatives, parents, teachers, and students to understand local needs and priorities related to HIV prevention and risk reduction among young people.

The Bahamian [Focus on Youth \(FOY\)](#) program and related studies are funded by the NIH. In collaboration with The Bahamas Ministry of Health Office of HIV/AIDS, the entire team is developing multiple new projects to address the HIV epidemic by engaging high school students and parents, as well as by reducing stigma and improving related health concerns.



*Drs. Wang, Adderley, Budhwani, MacDonell with Bahamian Guidance Counselor*

**Sara Green, MSW**, was recognized for her years of service to the FSU College of Medicine at the 2023 Faculty & Staff Longevity Awards. Congratulations, Sara! The CTBScience team is very grateful for your hard work and dedication to the Center mission and values.



One of our **CTBScience Faculty** received the FSU College of Medicine Outstanding Junior Faculty Award!

The [ORBIT Institute: Developing Behavioral Treatments to Improve Health](#) completed its first year. First cohort Fellows received their certificates for completing all activities, including attending an in-person meeting in May 2023, attending five webinars, completing a consultation with one ORBIT Core Faculty member, and submitting a final

evaluation about the Institute. The ORBIT Institute faculty and team are preparing for the second cohort in 2024.



*The 2023 ORBIT Institute Fellows and Faculty in Tallahassee, FL.*

## New Awards



**Dr. Karen MacDonell** received award notification for the 2nd phase of the project "Optimizing an mHealth intervention to improve uptake and adherence of the HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in vulnerable adolescents and emerging adults". This is an **NICHD-funded R21/33 grant award**, so this marks successful completion of the R21 (1st) phase and a **new 3-year R33 award**. The goal is to develop an optimized digital health intervention to promote PrEP uptake and adherence in young transgender women in Thailand. Dr. MacDonell is co-leading this project with colleagues at UMass and Institute of HIV Research and Innovation in Bangkok.

**Dr. Karen MacDonell** received a **new 3-year R34 grant award from NIDA** focused on self-management of HIV and substance use among youth in Zambia. She is co-leading this project with Dr. Bo Wang at UMass and partnering with the University of Zambia. The team aims to address the problem of

poor HIV management behaviors, including medication adherence, retention in HIV care, and alcohol and other drug use among emerging adults ages 18-24. The goal is to develop an optimized intervention package for testing in a larger efficacy trial. The study is projected to start December 2023.

**NIMHD K01** proposal was awarded! Title: "Disease management among populations with cardiometabolic syndrome and comorbid mental health challenges." Principal Investigator: **T. Dark, PhD.**

## Presentations

### *Call for Cultural Humility in MI*



Dr. Sylvie Naar gave keynote address at the [Call for Cultural Humility in MI: Opportunities and Advancements](#). The event was hosted by Columbia - School of Social Work.

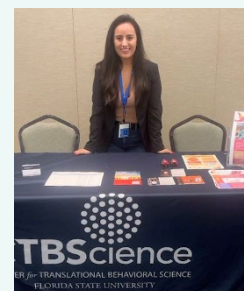
### *Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers*

Dr. Sylvie Naar sharing on "Demonstrating Cultural Humility, Cultural Opportunity and Cultural Comfort in Motivational interviewing Sessions" with the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT).



### *2023 IMPACT Summit*

Dr. Sylvie Naar was a panelist and presenter discussing HIV at the University of Florida (UF) Clinical and Translational Science Institute [2023 IMPACT Summit](#), in Orlando, FL. CTBScience program manager, Brenda Echeverri, MS, (right) attended





the Summit as well to enhance and support Center and University recognition through UF/FSU collaboration.



*Dr. Sylvie Naar gives opening remarks at 2023 IMPACT Summit.*

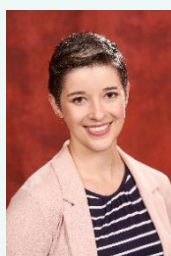
### *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) Conference 2023*



Sara Green, MSW, presented on "Ethical Issues in Engaging Lost to Follow Up Youth in HIV Care and Research" at the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities conference in Baltimore, MD.

### *Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 2023*

Two CTBS Faculty, Drs. Julia Sheffler and Nicole Ennis, presented at the [GSA 2023](#) in Tampa, Florida.



Dr. Julia Sheffler presented on "Lessons Learned Developing a Nutritional Adherence Intervention for Dementia Prevention: A Qualitative Analysis" in a symposium at the GSA 2023. Dr. Sheffler was also co-author on a poster presentation at the GSA 2023.



Dr. Nicole Ennis gave a presentation on "The Association between Medical Marijuana Use and Divided Attention on a Simulated Driving Performance Task" as part of a symposium at the GSA 2023.

### *Community-Academic Partnership*

Dr. Nicole Ennis co-led a Community-Academic Partnership meeting with a focus on participant recruitment with [CAN Community Health](#). Colleagues and affiliates from several universities (Florida State University, University of Florida, University of Central Florida, and University of South Florida) and Moffit were in attendance.

### *ABCT 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Seattle, WA*



*Drs. Kenneth Freedland, Lynda Powell, and Sylvie Naar (left to right).*

Dr. Sylvie Naar and colleagues, Drs. Kenneth Freedland and Lynda Powell, led a seminar on "The ORBIT Model for Developing and Testing Health Related Behavioral Interventions" as part of the Advanced Methodology and Statistics Seminars (AMASS) at ABCT.



Dr. Scott Pickett led a workshop on the Skills for Life Adjustment and Resilience (SOLAR) program as an early intervention for distress following disaster at ABCT.

## Events

CTBS contributed and participated in the Tallahassee Walk to End Alzheimer's. The team achieved and surpassed their fundraising goal!

CTBS Scale It Up Florida team participated in the annual Tallahassee AIDS Walk, an occasion to honor those who have made a significant impact in the relentless battle against the HIV/AIDS epidemic.



*Scale It Up - Florida Team: Kristina Feliciano, Grace Sanders, Dr. Sylvie Naar, Jonathan Morgan, Avery George, and Lamisha Rogers at the Tallahassee AIDS Walk.*

## Welcome to CTBScience!

This fall, several Research Programs at the Center welcomed a few new team members, including research staff, research assistants, and students.



**Amy Hall, Ed Bennett IV, MSW, and Marie Denis-Luque, MSPH, MPH** (left to right) joined Dr. Karen MacDonell's research team and the Adolescent and Young Adult Health Justice program.



**Naomi Frederic** joined Dr. Julia Sheffler's research program as Research Coordinator.

Check out the updated Integrative Science for Healthy Aging program [personnel page](#).

**Taylor Watson** joined the Transformative Health Justice Collaborative (R01) as Program Manager. Taylor will be working alongside Drs. Sylvie Naar and Meardith Pooler-Burgess on the Health Justice Collaborative initiatives.



Dr. Meardith Pooler-Burgess also started mentoring American Heart Association and FAMU student, **Nausicaa Imuzai**, who will be working on the Transformative R01 project during the academic year.

**Alexis Kendall**, a research assistant, and **Chloe Sebiro**, a FAMU mentee, joined the Community Health and Social Epidemiology (CHASE) program team.

**Joy Crawford, Nancy Revell, and Sharry Anne Solis** joined the Scale It Up - Florida team this fall.

## Publications

Reffi, A. N., Kalmbach, D. A., Cheng, P., Tappenden, P., Valentine, J., Drake, C. L., Pigeon, W. R., **Pickett, S. M.**, & Lilly, M. M. (2023). Fear of sleep in first responders: Associations with trauma types, psychopathology, and sleep disturbances. *SLEEP Advances*, zpad053. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sleepadvances/zpad053>

**Pickett, S. M.**, Lahar, K. I., Gaillard, P., & Kozak, A. T. (2023). Comparison Trial of Two Behavioral Sleep Interventions to Improve Sleep-Related Outcomes and Reduce Technology Usage Among College Students. *The American Journal of Psychology*, 136 (3): 291-297. doi: <https://doi.org/10.5406/19398298.136.3.05>

**Balán, I.C., Cheshure, A., Green, S. et al.** Building an HIV Learning Health Care Community for Youth in Florida: Opportunities and Challenges. *AIDS Behav* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-023-04201-1>

Wang B., Deveaux L., Guo Y., et al., & **Naar, S.** Effects of Teacher Training and Continued Support on the Delivery of an Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Program: Findings From a National Implementation Study in the Bahamas. *Health Education & Behavior*. 2023;0(0). doi:10.1177/10901981231195881

**Naar, S.**, Chapman, J. E., & Arons, G. A. (2023). Efficient and effective measurement of provider competence in community-based substance use treatment settings: Performance of the Motivational Interviewing Coach Rating Scale (MI-CRS). *Journal of substance use and addiction treatment*, 150, 209027. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.josat.2023.209027>

## Presentations

**Sheffler, J.**, Patel, J., Kiesses, D., Naar, S. (November, 2023). Lessons Learned Developing a Nutritional Adherence Intervention for Dementia Prevention: A Qualitative Analysis. GSA Annual Conference, Tampa, FL.

Trudy Gaillard, Dawn C. Carr, **Julia L. Sheffler**, Ursula Weiss, Donna Neff, Neil Charness, Fern Webb. Engaging Diverse Older Adults in Aging Research: Identifying Communication and Community Engagement Strategies: GSA Annual Conference, Nov 8-12, 2023, Tampa, FL.

**Green, S. S.**, Pooler-Burgess, M., Naar, S. (2023). Ethical Issues in Engaging Lost to Follow Up Youth in HIV Care and Research. Flash Presentation at 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference - Engaging the Past to Energize the Future: Creating Space for Inclusive Public Discourse, American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. Baltimore, Maryland.

Thank you to everyone - CTBS Faculty, staff, students, and affiliated partners and colleagues - who contributed to the CTBSscience Newsletter by providing information, pictures, and citations. For questions about the content, please contact CTBSscience program manager, Brenda Echeverri at [brenda.echeverri@med.fsu.edu](mailto:brenda.echeverri@med.fsu.edu).